

## Message Text

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40

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /143 W

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R 250903Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5085

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13424

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: GVN/PRG BILATERAL TALKS

REFERENCE: USDEL JEC PARIS 19766

1. JULY 25 MINPOL CALLED AT FOREIGN MINISTRY (KY) TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF GVN/PRG TALKS NOW THAT 45 DAY PERIOD SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 10(B) OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE HAS ALMOST EXPIRED. KY NOTED THAT THERE WAS A MEETING IN PROGRESS AT LACELLE-ST. CLOUD TODAY BUT THAT NOTHING WAS EXPECTED TO COME OF IT. HE SUMMARIZED THE GENERAL SITUATION IN TALKS AS FOLLOWS:

2. PROGRESS HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE IN TALKS ABOUT ELECTIONS BECAUSE THE COMMUNISTS INSIST ON PRECONDITIONS. THEY REFUSE TO DISCUSS ONE SUBJECT UNTIL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON ANOTHER. IN THIS WAY THEY APPARENTLY HOPE TO GAIN CONCESSION AFTER CONCESSION AND WHEN ALL KNOWN OBSTACLES TO AN

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ELECTION HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN REMOVED, THEY ARE STILL IN A POSITION

TO INTERPOSE SOME NEW CONDITION. IN THIS WAY THEY COULD "POSTPONE AN ELECTION FOR 10 YEARS."

3. THE GVN ON THE OTHER HAND HAS SOUGHT TO CARRY ON DISCUSSIONS IN FOUR SEPARATE COMMITTEES (USDEL JEC 17 15). UNDER THIS PLAN PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON SOME SUBJECTS WITHOUT BEING HELD BACK BY LACK OF PROGRESS IN OTHERS. THIS WOULD MAKE THE CHANCES OF COMPROMISE FAR GREATER. BUT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE REJECTED THE IDEA.

4. ANOTHER OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS IS THE COMMUNIST REFUSAL TO ENTER SECRET TALKS. IN THE PRESENT SEMI-PUBLIC FORUM IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE MEANINGFULLY.

5. KY NOTED THAT COMMUNISTS SEPARATE THE DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AND MEDICAL PRISONERS ISSUES FROM THAT OF ELECTIONS

AND BY CONSTANTLY HARPING ON THEM THEY TRY TO REAP A GREAT PROPAGANDA HARVEST. COMMUNIST TACTICS, HE SAID, ARE DESIGNED TO UNDERMINE OR DESTROY THE GVN CONSTITUTION AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS ONE BY ONE AND SO WEAKEN THE GVN POLITICAL SYSTEM THAT A COMMUNIST ELECTION VICTORY WOULD FOLLOW. THE GVN, HE SAID, WOULD OF COURSE NEVER PERMIT THIS.

6. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND NHA'S OFFICE ARE PLANNING TO PUT OUT A PUBLIC STATEMENT AT THE END OF THE 45 DAY PERIOD; SETTING FORTH IN DETAIL THIS GCN VIEW OF THE BILATERAL TALKS.

7. ASKED ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS FOR NORMALIZING RELATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM CALLED FOR IN ARTICLE 15(C) OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, KY SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS AT ALL. HE NOTED THAT IN JULY 20 STATEMENT ISSUED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY (FBIS S 191340Z), THE GVN HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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DECLARED ITS CONTINUING DESIRE TO HOLD SUCH TALKS. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY MORE RESPONSE FROM THIS THAN THERE HAD BEEN FROM FORMER MINISTER TRAN VAN LAM'S TWO INITIATIVES EARLIER IN THE YEAR.

8. KY TOLD US THAT THE GROUP WITHIN THE GVN HANDLING POLICY

TOWARD THE BILATERAL TALKS IS THE SAME AS THAT IN CHARGE  
OF  
CEASEFIRE MATTERS AND THE TPJMC. SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT  
COMMUNIQUE, THIS BODY HAS BEEN HEADED BY GENERAL DANG VAN  
QUANG IN THE PRESIDENCY. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PLAYS AN  
ACTIVE ROLE HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY NOW THAT NGUYEN PHU DUC,  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR TO THE  
PRESIDENT, IS ALSO MINISTER.  
MARTIN

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NNN

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